A FOREWORD

TO THE CONSTITUENCY OF COLUMBIA SEMINARY:

Dear Brethren: As I enter upon my duties as Professor of Theology and first President of the Columbia Theological Seminary, I desire to express my appreciation of the cordial reception which has been given me by the Faculty, Board of Directors, students, alumni, and the constituency of the institution found in the four controlling Synods. Believing that the Head of the Church has led me into this field of service, I am further girded for the work by these generous assurances of support from those without whose loyal aid I cannot hope for any measure of success.

No Theological Seminary in our Church has more evident field which it must exclusively and efficiently occupy, and the history of three-quarters of a century has securely planted it in the affections of the whole Church.

Beautifully situated in one of the renowned cities of the South, with its spacious campus, attractive buildings, inspiring traditions, able Faculty, hosts of alumni and loyal constituency, there is every reason why "peace should be within its walls and prosperity within its

palaces." Summoned to its service, I rejoice as a loyal alumnus in the privilege of linking my life with its history and work, "and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith I joy and rejoice with you all."

Perhaps I may be pardoned for emphasizing a few of the purposes and ideals which ought to control any man who devotes himself to the service of such an institution.

1st. It is essential to preserve uncorrupted and to extend more widely the influence of that type of Calvinistic theology of which Columbia is the representative. Calvinism has never received more convincing and reasonable exposition than at the hands of Thornwell and Girardeau, and our day and our Church cannot be more effectively served than by the unchanged and consistent presentation of this scriptural and rational theology, as was so faithfully done by my distinguished predecessor, Dr. W. T. Hall. The greatest asset of our Seminary is this Columbia type which inherits the best results of the past and further expands and develops the system to meet the new issues of the present time. The line of descent is Paul, Augustine, Anselm, Calvin, Owen, Howe, Edwards, Hodge, Thornwell, Girardeau, and linked to the past yet facing the future our Calvinism as interpreted by Thornwell and Girardeau is in advance of anything which the world and the Church has yet reached. This singular crown of glory rests upon the head of our Seminary, and gives it a

unique title to the favor and patronage of our Church. To keep this striking fact distinct in the consciousness of the Church may well command the energies of one who gives himself to the service of Columbia.

2d. It is a privilege to have some slight share with the Faculty and the Board in adjusting the Seminary more perfectly to the life of the Church today. The fundamental disciplines must be maintained, the scholarly standards must not be lowered, but the needs of the Church in the twentieth century require large recognition. The English Bible is the hub and the other chairs are spokes in the wheel of theological education, and announcement will soon be made as to the Bible chair, designed to give every student mastery of English Scriptures for pulpit and teaching work. The Seminary ought to be a hotbed of Missions and Evangelism. To this end Dr. Jas. O. Reavis will conduct a course in Missions, which it is believed will be at once scientific, practical and inspiring in the highest degree. Lectures on Child Study, Sunday School Pedagogy and Organization were delivered last year by Dr. Patterson Wardlaw, a fine expert in this field, and it is planned this year to have a course on these subjects, which in range and scientific character shall be equal to that given anywhere in our country. Church Work and Finance will receive due attention. Young Peoples' Work will be carefully studied, and Evangelism will be thoroughly canvassed from the biblical

standpoint. Conservatism as to doctrine, a wise and scientific aggressiveness as to methods, is the ideal.

3d. There ought to be, by simultaneous concert, prayer, preaching, an effort to increase the number of candidates for the Ministry in the bounds of our Synods. The President hopes to preach on this subject to all the schools, colleges and universities within his territory, and also to churches, Presbyteries and Synods, as occasion may offer. It is his earnest prayer that he may be used in securing from his brother ministers a profounder concern upon the matter, that through them the churches and the young men may be reached.

In conscious weakness and self-distrust, yet yielding to the leadership and compelling call of our divine King and relying on the loyal co-operation of my brethren and the churches in four great States and Synods, I now enter upon this work; and I venture to make this plea, that you "labor together with me in your prayers to God for me," that "the power of God may rest upon me" in all my ministration for this beloved "school of the prophets."

THORNTON WHALING.

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